

Please delete page 13 and substitute therefore substitute page 13 attached hereto at Tab 4.

Substitute the paragraph at page 14, lines 14-15 with the following paragraph.

<sup>10</sup>AquaKeep 10SH-NF superabsorbent particles having a median diameter of 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$  (Sumitomo Seika, Osaka, Japan)

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1.(Amended) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

from about 1 % by weight to 25 % by weight block copolymer having the formula (A-B)x or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and x is an integer of at least one;

from about 45 % by weight to about 75 % by weight superabsorbent polymer particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

from about 15 % by weight to about 40 % by weight plasticizing oil.

3. (Amended) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1, further comprising from about 1% by weight to about 5 % by weight surfactant.

22. (Amended) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

block copolymer having the formula (A-B)x or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and x is an integer of at least one;

superabsorbent particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

plasticizing oil,

said composition exhibiting water gel time of no greater than 2 minutes.

24.(Amended) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

block copolymer having the formula (A-B) $x$  or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and  $x$  is an integer of at least one;

superabsorbent particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

plasticizing oil,

said composition exhibiting a 0.9 % saline solution gel time of no greater than 1 hour.

25. (Amended) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

block copolymer having the formula (A-B) $x$  or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and  $x$  is an integer of at least one;

superabsorbent particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

plasticizing oil,

said composition exhibiting an absorbent capacity of at least 70 g water/g of composition.

26. (Amended) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

block copolymer having the formula (A-B) $x$  or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and  $x$  is an integer of at least one;

superabsorbent particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

plasticizing oil,

said composition exhibiting an absorbent capacity of at least 25 g 0.9 % aqueous saline solution/g of composition.

27. (Amended) A thermoplastic adhesive composition comprising:

from about 1 % by weight to 25 % by weight block copolymer having the formula (A-B)<sub>x</sub> or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and x is an integer of at least one;

from about 45 % by weight to about 75 % by weight superabsorbent polymer particles comprising polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ;

tackifying agent; and

from about 15% by weight to about 40% by weight plasticizing oil.

33. A thermoplastic composition comprising:

block copolymer having the formula (A-B)<sub>x</sub> or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and x is an integer of at least one;

spherical superabsorbent particles comprising polyacrylate; and  
plasticizing oil,

said composition exhibiting a water gel time of no greater than 2 minutes, a viscosity of no greater than 100,000 centipoise at 300°F and a wet tensile strength of at least 15 g/in<sup>2</sup>.

34. (Amended) The thermoplastic composition of claim 33, wherein said composition exhibits a 0.9 % saline solution gel time of no greater than 1 hour.

35. (Amended) The thermoplastic composition of claim 33, wherein said composition exhibits a 0.9 % saline solution gel time of no greater than 10 minutes.

36. (Amended) The thermoplastic composition of claim 33, wherein said composition exhibits a water gel time of no greater than 1.5 minutes, a viscosity of no greater than 30,000 centipoise at 300°F and a wet tensile strength of at least 40 g/in<sup>2</sup>.

37. (Amended) The thermoplastic composition of claim 33, wherein said composition exhibits an absorption capacity of at least 70 g water/g composition.

38. (Amended) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

block copolymer having the formula (A-B)<sub>x</sub> or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and x is an integer of at least one;

from about 45 % by weight to about 75 % by weight superabsorbent polymer particles that include polyacrylate; and

from about 15 % by weight to about 40 % by weight plasticizing oil,  
said composition exhibiting a water gel time of no greater than 2 minutes,  
and an absorption capacity of at least 70 g water/g composition and at least 10 g 0.9% saline solution/g composition.

Please add the following new claims.

39. (New) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

block copolymer having the formula (A-B)<sub>x</sub> or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and x is an integer of at least one;

from about 45 % by weight to about 75 % by weight superabsorbent polymer particles comprising polyacrylate; and

from about 15 % by weight to about 40 % by weight plasticizer,  
said composition exhibiting a viscosity of no greater than about 65,000 centipoise at 300°F.

40.(New) A thermoplastic composition comprising:

thermoplastic polymer selected from the group consisting of amorphous polyolefins, crystalline polyolefins, polylactides, polyvinyl alcohols, copolyesters, polyesters, poly(ethylene oxide) polyether amides, polyester ether block copolymers, polyamides, and combinations thereof;

from about 45 % by weight to about 75 % by weight superabsorbent polymer particles comprising polyacrylate; and

from about 15 % by weight to about 40 % by weight plasticizer,